

(b) Government did not sell any equity of VSNL during the last year. However, Government sold 25 per cent equity of VSNL in February 2002 through Strategic Partner route in favour of M/s Panatone Finvest Ltd. (PFL), a Tata Group company, for sum of Rs. 1439.25 crores (7,12,50,000 shares at price of Rs. 202/- per share).

(c) There is no financial loss suffered by the Government during its dis-investment of 25 per cent stake on 13.02.2002 as the closing price of VSNL shares in the National Stock Exchange on the date of receipt of financial bids *i.e.* 01.02.2002 was Rs. 156.95 per share, as against Rs. 202/- per share price received from the strategic partner.

Tax charged on part of BOT concept

*236. SHRIMATI JAYABACHCHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on some inter-State highways or bridges, motorists have to pay a charge as part of BOT concept or otherwise;

(b) if so, the details of such places in the country where such charges are being levied at present;

(c) the duration of period for which such charge is required to be paid;

(d) whether there is any mechanism installed at any of such places displaying the amount collected so far and the remaining duration or amount that remains to be collected; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of places where users' fee being collected are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) As per the National Highways (Fee for the use of National Highway Section and Permanent Bridge—Public Funded Projects) Rules, 1997, the users' fee is being collected in perpetuity.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The users' fee is being collected in perpetuity.

[17 March, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

Statement

State-wise number of places on which toll tax is being collected

Sl. No.	Name of States/ UTs	Number of places where toll/ user fee is being collected	
		Bridges	Stretches of National Highways
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	7
2	Assam	2	0
3	Bihar	4	0
4	Chhattisgarh	2	1
5	Gujarat Haryana	5	7
6	Karnataka	0	3
7		5	2
8	Kerala	10	0
9	Madhya Pradesh	6	0
10	Maharashtra	10	6
11	Manipur	2	0
12	Orissa	3	2
13	Punjab	2	2
14	Rajasthan	9	6
15	Tamil Nadu	3	2
16	Uttar Pradesh	19	3
17	Uttaranchal	3	0
18	West Bengal	0	1

Biotechnology related proposals

*237. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased, to state:

(a) what measures his Ministry are taking to give single-window clearance to all the biotechnology related proposals;

(b) what is the total exports Indian biotechnology has made during the last five years; year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the exports in the next three years?